

**SALEM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY MAY 5, 2015
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, 7:00 pm**

Present: K. Lyden, E. Burr, L. Buckley

Absent: B. Ross, E. Chmielewski

Guests: See File Copy

CALL TO ORDER: K. Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:02

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) April 7, 2015 Regular Meeting

M/S/C (Lyden/Buckley) to approve the minutes of April 7, 2015 as presented.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

2) CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

K. Lyden read the retirement letter from Resident Trooper Seery. Trooper Seery has been Salem's Resident Trooper for 23 years; he has served Salem well and will be missed.

3) AGENDA ADDITIONS/REVISIONS:

M/S/C (Buckley/Burr) to add Emergency Responder Incentives as Item 4 (F). Vote: Approved Unanimously

4) AGENDA:

A) Update on Potential Donation of Land and Building at 397 Old Colchester Rd

The Town Attorney is reviewing the deed of the property. G. Pianka, a builder specializing in old, historic buildings will assess the structure.

B) Blight Ordinance Discussion

K. Lyden stated he has heard from a number of residents that would like a blight ordinance. He contacted CCM about the issue and received 50 ordinances from various towns in Connecticut. He said he is putting the idea out there to start people thinking and talking about it. The ordinance would be tailored to Salem and deal with "junk/garbage" but not get into micro managing issues like grass length, etc.

The advantage to having an ordinance is that it gives people time to clean up their property and if not done, the town would be able to assess a fine, if not paid then a lien would go on the property. Some questioned who would be responsible for enforcing the ordinance. The Board will keep it on the agenda and they encourage residents to contact them with comments.

C) Additional Appropriation for Capital Road Repairs

Due to the extreme winter the Public Works Dept. has over spent their sand and salt line. It is expected that FEMA will reimburse the town for a portion of the expenses incurred during storm Colbie but not until late summer/early fall.

M/S/C (Lyden/Burr) request additional appropriation to capital non-recurring fund for road repairs in the amount of \$21,000. Vote: Approved Unanimously

D) Salem Emergency Notification System

The Salem Emergency Notification System is up and running. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the service. The system has the ability to notify people of emergencies, town events, meetings and other events. Two members of the Emergency Management Committee will be at the referendum to sign people up for the service. People can also sign up themselves or come into the town hall for help.

E) Tax Refunds

M/S/C (Buckley/Burr) the Board of Selectmen direct the Town Treasurer to issue refunds in the amount of \$1,319.89 as recommended and certified by the Tax Collector as presented to the Board of Selectman on May 5, 2015. Vote: Approved Unanimously

F) Emergency Responders Incentive

K. Lyden stated he received the list of eligible first responders from both fire departments. The members who qualify are entitled to either a \$1000 tax incentive or \$400 stipend.

M/S/C (Lyden/Buckley) to approve the lists and direct the Tax Collector to apply the tax abatements to those who qualify. Vote: Approved Unanimously

5) REPORTS:

A) FIRST SELECTMAN

K. Lyden announced a public meeting to address the group home incident which happened over the weekend. A representative from the Department of Developmental Services, as well as the owner of the company that owns the group home.

The Annual Town Meeting will be May 6 and adjourn to a referendum on May 13.

B) PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works crew is still down one person due to a workman's comp issue. He praised the work done on the ball fields.

C) BUILDING DEPARTMENT

More homes are being built in Salem

D) SALEM SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Committee had a meeting last week and most of the work is wrapping up.

E) BOARD OF EDUCATION

The change over to the new IT system is complete. The security upgrade is still in transition. The old system could handle around 50 devices at one time, the new system can handle between 500-800

The BOE will have a surplus this year. They are looking for ways to spend half of it and return the other half to the town.

F) BOARD OF FINANCE

The BOF will meet on May 14 to finalize the budget

G) PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

They are discussing conservation developments and how to improve/amend the cluster development regulation.

H) INLAND WETLANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The hosted a DEEP presentation on the Nehantic Forest Management Plan

I) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

They have completed and distributed their new brochure

J) ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Kate Bellandese resigned as chairman and Charlie Dutch was elected.

K) RECREATION COMMISSION

Opening day of baseball was a success. The Commission is getting ready for the Memorial Day bike decorating contest and there are many summer programs.

L) PUBLIC SAFETY

No report

M) TRANSFER STATION

The operator's contract has been extended by one year. Bulky waste days are May 16, 17, and 20th.

N) LIBRARY BOARD

No report-they have not met since March

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

George Jackson, 62 Hilltop Trail

7) ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C (Burr/Buckley) to adjourn at 7:48 PM

Respectfully Submitted

**Sue Spang
Recording Secretary**